

Talking Points: for IEMA Director, William C. Burke – February 21, 2006
Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)

History & Observations: Minor earthquakes occur in Illinois occasionally, and damaging quakes are much less frequent. In June 2004 a magnitude 4.2 earthquake occurred 70 miles w. southwest from Chicago and in June 1987 a magnitude 5.0 earthquake shook southeastern Illinois, causing minor damage in the Lawrenceville and Olney areas. In October 1895 (Halloween), an earthquake, centered just south of Illinois in Charleston, MO, had an estimated magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale. It was felt as far away as Pittsburgh, PA, New Orleans, LA and Topeka, KS. No substantial buildings collapsed, no one was killed, and there were few injuries. What follows is our response in the event of a catastrophic earthquake and to answer the question *[“How Do We Ensure a Robust Federal Response to a Catastrophic Earthquake in the New Madrid Region?”](#)*

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is responsible for the coordination, management and administration of the state's emergency management and homeland security resources. IEMA operates a 24-hour communications center, a new state of the art State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), and 24 agency worksites throughout Illinois. IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety (DNS) monitors 11 nuclear power reactors at six nuclear power stations licensed to generate electricity in Illinois; inspects and escorts spent nuclear fuel shipments; and ensures public safety through inspection, licensing, accreditation and certification of medical professionals, radiation-producing equipment and facilities.

Potential Issues

- Earthquake Preparedness Plans, Full Scale Exercises/Table Top Training
- Post-Earthquake safety, mitigation, evaluations of buildings, road routes and bridges, as well as satellite/interoperable communications
- Disaster issues of quantitative estimates (casualties & economic impacts), functional loss (facilities & services) and secondary disasters (e.g. dam/dike failures, urban/rural fires, hazardous materials release and spills)
- Public Awareness & Education; and Grant Funding

Illinois Capabilities

- IEMA is a multidisciplinary entity made up of responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines throughout Illinois (e.g. federal stakeholders, representatives of state, local and tribal incident management and responder organizations) for preparedness of the impact of a multi-state event.
- Illinois is currently modifying its Earthquake Response Plan. These changes will reflect lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina. IEMA has a point of contact earthquake coordinator at 217-557-4771, and we are in the process of developing a comprehensive Seismic Risk and Vulnerability Study for Illinois
- Active Member of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), Earthquake Program Manager for FEMA Region V. Illinois is vice-Chairman of the IDOT CUSEC Transportation Task Force and have joint seismic research efforts with the Mid-America Earthquake Center (MAE) funded by the National Science Foundation
- All IEMA employees are NIMS compliant by the National Incident Management System (NIMS), standard command and management structure in incident management, mutual aid and resource management
- Illinois has received full EMAP Accreditation through IEMA by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, national standards in emergency preparedness
- IEMA communications consist of low band radios, VHF encryption and digital capable, UHF Federal Band encryption/digital capable, high frequency single side band radios used to communicate with State system and Federal Government, line phone systems and fax lines with capabilities to connect to cell phones, satellite and portable tower(s)
- We conduct Earthquake Seminars in each of the IEMA Regions in Southern Illinois (Region 8 – March 2-3 in Fairview Heights, Region 11 – March 7-8 in Marion, IL and Region 9 – March 15-16 in Effingham). Transportation, Mass Care and Evacuation
- Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission